

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	31/146-7

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

Recorded by Greer Hardwicke

Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.

Date March 1985

Town Brookline MRA
Address 9 Toxteth Street
Historic Name William Ingersoll Bowditch
House

Use: Present Single-family residence
Original Single-family cottage

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1843-1844
1844 Wadsworth
Source Norfolk County Deeds Bk.149, pp.93-
94

Style Gothic Revival/Greek Revival
Architect possibly Joshua F. Fernald
Exterior wall fabric aluminum siding
Outbuildings no

Major alterations (with dates) rear ell
removed (date unknown), front porch altered
front bay moved, dormers added (1927)

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting Corner lot overlooking Linden
Square in a densely built neighborhood.

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325600/4688980
Mpa #: 63

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

Number 9 Toxteth is an L-shaped vernacular Gothic Revival cottage with Greek Revival-style elements. The 1½-story house has full-length sidelights and two long first-story windows under the porch. All the original openings have square-headed drip moldings. The two original dormers have pointed arches. The roof ridge hosts a brick chimney. There is a single-story flat-roofed bay on the south facade. Although there have been alterations over the years, this simple house represents a modest example of the mid-century wooden cottages built in Brookline. It is similar to the Greek/Gothic Revival house next door at #1 Toxteth.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Fronting on Linden Square, #9 Toxteth was built in 1844-1845 on land that was part of Thomas Aspinwall Davis' development of Linden Place. (See form for #29 Linden Place, Linden Square, and Linden Park.) William Ingersoll Bowditch bought "all of lot 15, nearly all of lot 14 and part of lot 13 in A. W. Wadsworth's plan" from Davis in August of 1845. Along with the land, he also purchased a cottage and grove on said parcel, which was built by Joseph Fernald. This cottage was one of seven which dotted the Linden Place development.

William Ingersoll Bowditch was a conveyancer who had an office at 8 Railroad Exchange Building in Boston. He owned this property from 1845 to 1867 before moving to Tappan Street in Brookline. He was extremely active in local Brookline politics, becoming a selectman and serving as moderator of Town Meeting for a number of years. Before the Civil War, he was a firm believer in abolition, becoming active in both Brookline and Boston efforts. He belonged to the Boston Vigilance Committee. Bowditch, along with Edward Atkinson and Edward Philbrick, participated actively in the fight against slavery. Besides trying to sway public opinion through meetings and lectures, Bowditch used his house for sheltering fugitive slaves. In 1849-1850, a South Carolina

(continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- Deed, Norfolk County (Dedham), Book 141, p. 105, May 27, 1843; Book 149, p. 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, August 24, 1844.
Brookline maps: 1844 (Wadsworth); 1858; 1871
Brookline atlases: 1874; 1884; 1893
Brookline tax lists: 1861, 1867-1890
Brookline Engineering Plats: Aspinwall Land Company, May 1890 (L-10/B-35); Aspinwall Land Company, 1886 (1-3/D47).
Brookline Building Permits
Harrell, Pauline Chase, "Anti-Slave Days in Brookline," Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society, 1978.
Curtis, John Goulds, History of the Town of Brookline, Boston: 1933, p. 204.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

31/146-7

Property Name: 9 Toxteth

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

couple arrived in Boston on their way to ~~freedom~~. They spoke at the Brookline Town Hall and stayed at #9 Toxteth. From there they went to other residences in town. At another time, Bowditch drove a slave from the brig Cameo from Boston to Concord and returned home in time for breakfast. Perhaps the most illustrious guest during this period was John Brown's son. The young man was hidden here after his father's execution for his involvement in the Harper's Ferry raid.

The next owner of the house was Gustavus M. Finotti, the vice-consul of Italy and a merchant with an office in downtown Boston. He bought the house, stable and 2 1/2 acres in 1867, selling it to the Aspinwall Land Company by 1884. The evidence is not clear, but there is speculation that he was related to Father Joesph Finotti, pastor of the Brookline's Parish and developer of Holyhood Cemetery. Father Finotti had built a parish house on a nearby Harrison Street (now Kent St.) in the 1857. Bowditch held the mortgage to this property as well as the Holyhood Cemetery, having sold it to Finotti in 1857.

9 Toxteth meets NR criteria A, B & C, representing a site of the Underground Railroad with one of the hidden being the son of John Brown of Harper's Ferry fame. It is also significant in being part of the original plan of the 1843 Linden Place development by Thomas Aspinwall Davis, a Mayor of Boston. Linden Place was one of the earliest planned communities in Brookline patterned in the picturesque mode. 9 Toxteth meets Criterion B for its associations with William Ingersoll Bowditch, a prominent Brookline abolitionist and the house's original owner. Because of later construction in the area, the remaining components of Davis' development are being nominated individually.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9-4-85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Brookline MRA
State Norfolk County, MASSACHUSETTS

Cover 10-17-85
Date/Signature

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Sevenels

Substantive Review Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

Determined Eligible

2. Stoddard, Bela, House

Substantive Review Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

Determined Eligible

3. United Parish-Harvard
Church

Substantive Review Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

4. Anderson, Larz, Park
Historic District

Substantive Review Keeper

Attest

5. Arcade Building

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

6. ^{NR} Beacon Street Historic
District
(add. info. accepted 1-24-86)

Substantive Review

Attest

7. Beaconsfield Terraces
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

8. Bowditch, William Ingersoll,
House

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

9. Brandegee Estate

Substantive Review

Attest

10. Building
(30--34 Station St.)

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

85003249

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEETBowditch, William Ingersoll, House (Brookline
MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTSWorking No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-17-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____Entered in the
National Register

- ☐
- resubmission
-
- ☐
- nomination by person or local government
-
- ☐
- owner objection
-
- ☐
- appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐
- excellent
-
- ☐
- good
-
- ☐
- fair

- ☐
- deteriorated
-
- ☐
- ruins
-
- ☐
- unexposed

Check one

- ☐
- unaltered
-
- ☐
- altered

Check one

- ☐
- original site
-
- ☐
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐
- summary paragraph
-
- ☐
- completeness
-
- ☐
- clarity
-
- ☐
- alterations/integrity
-
- ☐
- dates
-
- ☐
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) _____

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other _____

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other _____

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



9 Toxteth St

Brookline (Ma) MRA

Bowditch, William Fergusson, House



9 Toxtetu St

Brookline (Ma) MRA

Bowditch, William Fingersh, House

9 Toxteth St. (31/46-7)
Brookline (Ma) MRA
William Ingersoll Benedict Wood
Town of Brookline Map bn 1981
Scale 1/2" = 200 ft.

